(a) whether the National Policy of Education, 1986 recommended that at least 500 colleges should be made autonomous by the end of the Eighth Plan period;

(b) if so, whether the targeted number of colleges have been granted autonomy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) The Programme of Action 1992 evolved for implementation of the National Policy on Education 1986, as modified in 1992, provided that the number of autonomous colleges should be increased substantially during the 8th Plan. According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission, 133 colleges spread over 29 universities in eight States have so far been given the status of autonomous colleges. With a view to increasing the number of autonomous colleges in the country, several measures have recently been taken by the UGC which include revision of guidelines, giving advertisements in the newspapers inviting proposals from the colleges and making specific requests to the Vice Chancellors to send proposals from their affiliated colleges.

Grant to Government of Assam towards salary of teachers

417. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN :
DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of grant released to Government of Assam towards salary of teachers appointed under OBB scheme during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the utilization status of the above, year-wise;

(c) the outstanding balance, if any, due to Government of Assam under the scheme; and

(d) the status as to the continuity of service of OBB teachers under SSA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) to (c) The amount of grant released to the Government of Assam towards salary of teachers appointed under OBB scheme, utilization status and outstanding balance, during the last three years, year-wise, is given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Grants Released	Grants Utilized	Unspent Balance
2000-01	2305.79	2305.79	Nill
2001-02	1523.25	1523.25	Nil
2002-03	793.93	793.93	Nil

(d) Like other plan schemes, the liabilities including that of the continuity of service of the teachers appointed under OBB scheme was to be borne by Government of Assam after the expiry of Ninth plan period. However, the Planning Commission, as an exception for North Eastern States, including Assam, decided to meet the expenditure on the salaries of the teachers appointed under the scheme for the Tenth plan period from Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) as per the norms.

Children with mental problems in schools and colleges

418. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of children with mental health problems in various schools and colleges in the country;

(b) what is the number of identified handicapped children in various schools;

(c) whether our human resource personnel in schools are well equipped to deal with these handicapped children; and

(d) whether Government have any plans to identify such handicapped children in our schools and provide them specialized atmosphere so that they can blossom out well and contribute to nation building?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) As this Department is dealing with the Centrally